

INTIMATIONS

BROWN, JONES & CO.

DIAMONDS IN AMERICAN AND ITALIAN MARBLE AND HONGKONG GRANITE.

For the purpose of the memorial.

Office: 17, Queen's Road Central. [2704]

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shows a steady increase, the import being as follows:—1893, 168,816 tons; 1894, 170,499 tons; 1895, 185,616 tons; 1896, 186,758 tons; 1897, 211,777 tons. On the whole the trade returns for the past five years cannot be regarded as unsatisfactory, especially when it is remembered that the period includes two plague years, namely, 1894 and 1896.

Mr. ROBERTSON WILKINS, the United States Consul-General, in his recently published interesting report on "Economic conditions in Hongkong" concluded by saying:—"I think Hongkong may expect a continuance of prosperity during the present year. Whatever changes may take place in the neighboring countries, they can hardly fail to bring material advantage to the colony." That is an accurate view of the position. With the opening of the inland waters of China and the increase in the number of treaty ports the trade of Hongkong cannot fail to steadily increase.

The only cloud that hangs over the colony is the plague, of which we are now experiencing another epidemic. This naturally mitigates our prosperity and is an enemy against which the whole community should work untiringly by placing the colony in a thorough state of sanitation.

Several cases of hydrophobia have recently occurred at Hongkong.

There were 21 cases of plague reported yesterday and 14 today.

The N. P. steamer *Teosma* sailed from Yokohama for Hongkong and Japan on the 20th ultimo.

Two boatsmen were yesterday each fined \$50 for taking part in the *Catharine* affair while under way on Monday.

The steamer *Gravem*, from New York, left Singapore yesterday and may be expected here on or about the 30th inst.

The M. M. steamer *Yarra*, with the most French mail, left Singapore on the 2nd inst., at 5 p.m. for this port on the 30th.

A fisherman was yesterday fined \$25 for holding communication with a fish while in the quarantine enclosure in the harbor.

The steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro* with mails, etc., left San Francisco on the 20th inst. for Hongkong, Shanghai, Kobe, Yokohama and Honolulu, arrived at her destination on the 30th ultimo.

The steamer *Goetz*, with mails, etc., which left San Francisco for Hongkong, Shanghai, Nagasaki, Kobe, Yokohama and Honolulu, arrived at her destination on the 30th ultimo.

Mr. A. McQuibbin, having returned to the colony, has resumed the duties of Director of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, and Mr. F. Satchell has also resumed his duties. Mr. G. D. Boush has resigned on leaving the colony.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alliance Memorial and Netherland Hospitals has acknowledged with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:—

He Peck 20
J. E. Houston 10

Under date of 28th April the *Semantic* (Sagun) states under the head of "Intelligence" that the French flag has been hoisted at Kinkow, Hainan. No mention is made of the circumstances in the *Semantic* of the 28th April, and the statement is probably untrue unless it refers simply to the establishment of a French consulate.

A cock named Nao was charged at the Magistrate yesterday with neglecting to report a case of infectious disease. P. C. Wilkinson was defendant on Monday morning on the Canton Wharf with a case of infectious disease. He was charged with neglecting to report the removal of the sick man to the hospital at Kinkow, and Dr. Lowman has since reported that it was a case of infectious disease. The case was dismissed on the ground that he was not aware it was a case of plague. Fined \$10.

It is reported that at a private meeting recently held in the capital, Peking, the introduction of conveying tribute to Peking by rail instead of by boat. The idea was highly commended by the Manchu officials at present interested in the water carriage. The Emperor of China has been informed of the proposal, and the reply was that after two years more the wish should be granted. Considering the rapidly with which changes are made in this country, it is not unlikely that the proposal will be carried out.

Mr. W. P. Taylor, Deputy Coast Inspector and Harbour Master at Shanghai, has been appointed Acting Coast Inspector and Harbour Master at Hongkong for five years. In his report for 1892 the Hon. H. M. Murray says:—"An attempt has been made to gauge the tide of the colony by 'import and export returns. In the absence of a Customs House it has not been possible to tabulate such returns with absolute correctness, but by the courtesy of the ship agents and masters returns of the bulk cargo imported, exported, and in transit have been rendered possible, the general correctness of which there is no reason to doubt, though a tendency to 'underestimate probably obtains.' Some time ago the Chamber of Commerce took exception to the returns on account of their alleged want of accuracy, but so far as they go the returns appear to be of value as a means of gauging the general volume of trade, and enabling us to see whether we are progressing or not. On comparing the returns for the five years it would appear, if we look only at the total amount of cargo landed, that the trade during that period had been unprogressive, but if the very variable item of rice be eliminated from the comparison it will be seen that there has been a substantial improvement. The total quantity of cargo landed in the colony during the five years was as follows:—1893, 2,717,910 tons; 1894, 2,626,610 tons; 1895, 2,760,951 tons; 1896, 2,791,889 tons; 1897, 2,743,061 tons. Last year, however, the import of rice amounted only to 331,130 tons, as against an average for the previous four years of 712,387 tons, a falling off of 380,000 tons. Deducting the rice cargo landed last year amounted to 2,381,981 tons as against 1,955,636 tons in 1893, an increase of over 21 per cent. The chief deficit in the returns is their want of detail, nearly half the total imports being lumped together under the head of 'general.' The figures under this head for the five years are as follows:—1893, 1,163,963 tons; 1894, 1,070,676 tons; 1895, 1,026,004 tons; 1896, 1,077,080 tons; 1897, 1,111,700 tons. Sugar, which is of especial interest as supplying one of our principal industries, that of sugar refining,

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THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS, WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 1893.

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